

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7427

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8270

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS HABIB AND SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA KS

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON ROK/JAPAN
RELATIONS

REF: TOKYO 16177

1. CHARGE MENTIONED COMMENTS ON NEW JAPANESE FOREIGN
MINISTER MIYAZAWA ON KIM TAE CHUNG CASE TO ACTING
FONMIN LHO SHIN YONG DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION
DEC 12. LHO SAID ROKG INTEREST HAD IMMEDIATELY BEEN
AROUSSED BY PRESS REPORTS OF MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS AND
THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED ROK AMBASSADOR /TOKYO TO VERIFY
THAT PRESS REPORTS WERE ACCURATE AND TO PROVIDE ROKG
WITH ASSESSMENT OF THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

2. LHO SAID MOFA'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF
MIYAZAWA AS REGARDS HIS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON ROK/JAPAN
RELATIONS WAS THAT MIYAZAWA WOULD CERTAINLY BE NO
WORSE THAN KIMURA AND LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLY
BETTER. HE THOUGHT MIYAZAWA WOULD BE MUCH LESS
INCLINED THAN KIMURA TO MAKE DAMAGING OFF-THE-CUFF
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REMARKS AND THAT MIYAZAWA'S ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

WOULD GIVE HIM USEFUL OVERVIEW OF THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ROK/JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. DESPITE MIYAZAWA'S FRIENDLY VIEW OF KOREA, HOWEVER, LHO THOUGHT THAT MIYAZAWA'S LACK OF POLITICAL STATURE AND GENERAL WEAKNESS OF MIKI GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR NEW FONMIN, HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED, TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT FAVORABLE IMPACT ON ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ALSO DISPOSED TO BE HOPEFUL.
ERICSON

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